

Message Text

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P,/A

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: MIN OF AGRICULTURE OZAL'S STATEMENT ON RESUMING OPIUM
POPPY CULTIVATION THIS FALL

FOLLOWING OUTLINES REPORT OF INTERVIEW ABOUT OPIUM SITUATION
WITH MIN OF AGRICULTURE OZAL, PRINTED IN MARCH 20
"MILLIYET" INCLUDING FULL TEXT OF QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO THE MINISTER.
REPORT WAS SIGNED BY NILUFER YALCIN, WHO IS
CONSISTENTLY RELIABLE WHEN SHE REPORTS QUOTATIONS.
UNDER HEADLINE "OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION WILL BEGIN IN THE
FALL", REPORTER YALCIN IN LEAD-IN INTRODUCTION CITES MIN OF
AGRICULTURE AS SAYING INTER ALIA THAT CONTROLLED LICENSED OPIUM
POPPY CULTIVATION WOULD BEGIN NEXT FALL ON APPROX 200,000 DECARES
(ABOUT 50,000 ACRES), THAT THIS WOULD YIELD 200 TONS OF RAW
OPIUM AND THAT THE MINISTER HAD BRIEFED THE INTER-MINISTERIAL ECON-
OMIC COUNCIL ON HIS MINISTRY'S PROPOSALS. STORY GOES
ON TO QUOTE OZAL'S STATEMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

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QUOTE IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE SINGLE CONVENTION

ON OPIUM POPPY, CULTIVATION IS PLANNED BY IMPLEMENTATION OF A LICENSE SYSTEM AND UNDER STATE CONTROL. CULTIVATION IS PLANNED TO REACH 1967 LEVEL AND CLOSE THE GAP IN WORLD OPIUM REQUIREMENTS BY YIELDING AN EXPECTED 200 TONS OF RAW GUM. THE DECREE ON THIS SUBJECT WILL BE PROMULGATED AT THE LATEST BY JULY 1 AND THE CULTIVATION REGIONS AND CONDITIONS WILL BE CLEARLY DEFINED. IN OUR OPINION, CULTIVATION BY LICENSE PROVIDES EFFECTIVE CONTROL. TURKEY USED THIS SYSTEM IN FOUR PROVINCES WHERE OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION WAS MADE FOR THE LAST TIME IN 1971-1972 AND HAD OBTAINED EXTREMELY FAVORABLE RESULTS. LICENSED CULTIVATION IS NOT NEW TO TURKEY. FOR INSTANCE TURKEY HAS LONG EXPERIENCE IN LICENSED CULTIVATION OF TOBACCO. IN ADDITION TO EXTENSIVE AND EXPANDED CONTROL MEASURES THAT WILL BE CARRIED OUT DURING THE INCISION SEASON OF THE OPIUM POPPY PODS IN THE CULTIVATED REGIONS, STATE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH WILL PURCHASE THE PODS FROM THE FARMERS WILL ESTABLISH A REQUIREMENT THAT THE PODS BE DELIVERED INTACT WITHOUT INCISION. THIS WILL CONSTITUTE A THEIR ECHELON CONTROL MECHANISM. PRESENTLY THE PRICE OF OPIUM GUM IN WORLD MARKETS IS TL 500-600. HOWEVER, SINCE IT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED THAT INTACT OPIUM POPPY PODS INSTEAD OF RAW OPIUM GUM WILL BE PURCHASED FROM THE FARMERS, CALCULATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION WORLD PRICES. IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO PAY A PRICE OF TL 15 PER KILO FOR OPIUM POPPY PODS WHICH CAN BE USED IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY. ACCORDING TO STUDIES MADE BY THE EXPERTS OF OUR MINISTRY, THE INCOME THAT CAN BE OBTAINED BY THE FARMERS PER DEKARE IS TL 2000 IF THE OPIUM EXTRACTED IS EXPORTED IN THE FORM OF OPIUM GUM. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FARMERS WILL SECURE A TOTAL INCOME OF TL 3300 PER DEKARE IF THEY DELIVER THE PODS INTACT TO A FACTORY THAT WILL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE TO MANUFACTURE RAW MATERIAL FOR THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY. IT IS ALSO PLANNED TO ESTABLISH A FACTORY THAT WILL PRODUCE ALKALOIDS AND OPIUM DERIVATIVES NEEDED BY THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY STUDIES THIS INDUSTRY CAN BE ESTABLISHED WITH AN INVESTMENT OF TL 250 MILLION. TURKEY WILL CONTINUE TO EXPORT OPIUM RAW MATERIAL UNTIL THIS FACTORY IS ESTABLISHED. THE FACT THAT OUR FARMERS CAN SECURE AN

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INCOME OF TL 2000-3300 PER DEKARE OF OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION PROVES THAT THIS IS AN EXTREMELY HIGH YIELD FARMING. IN FACT, STUDIES CLEARLY INDICATE THAT IF OPIUM POPPY IS REPLACED BY OTHER HIGH YIELD CROPS, THERE WILL BE A LOSS OF TL 15,000, CALCULATED AT PRESENT PRICES. THIS LOSS REACHES AN AMOUNT OF TL THREE BILLION IN A TOTAL FARMING AREA OF 200,000 DEKARES. THIS FIGURE REPRESENTS ONLY THE ECONOMIC LOSS CALCULATED AT TODAY'S PRICES. SOCIAL LOSS TO

BE SUFFERED BY THE FARMERS IS ANOTHER MATTER. COMPENSATION WILL BE PAID FOR 1973-1974 TO THE FARMERS WHO WERE ENGAGED IN OPIUM POPPY FARMING. FURTHERMORE A DECREE HAS BEEN DRAFTED AND FORWARDED TO THE PRIME MINISTRY HAVING PROVISIONS TO COVER THE LOSS SUFFERED BY OIL EXTRACTION PLANTS, WHICH HAD TO DISCONTINUE THEIR OPERATION. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION BAN, \$20 MILLION HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE AMERICAN AID FUND. A TOTAL OF TL 182 MILLION, OF \$13 MILLION, HAS BEEN ACTUALLY SPENT FROM THIS FUND, TL 111 MILLION FOR COMPENSATION AND TL 71 MILLION FOR INVESTMENT PROJECTS. INVESTMENTS NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH OPIUM POPPY BAN IN THE OPIUM POPPY FARMING REGIONS WILL CONTINUE. FURTHERMORE CERTAIN PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN STARTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CROP SUBSTITUTION AFTER THE BAN WILL BE TAKEN UP AND IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND AN INVESTMENT POLICY WHICH WILL SECURE THE HIGHEST RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. END QUOTE

BEGIN INDIRECT QUOTE: MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE KORKUT OZAL STATED THAT THE GOVT HAS ALWAYS SHOWN UNDERSTANDING ABOUT OPIUM SMUGGLING AND AS A MATTER OF FACT OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION, WHICH WAS CARRIED OUT IN 42 PROVINCES IN 1960, WAS REDUCED TO 22 PROVINCES IN 1965 DURING INONU'S ADMINISTRATION IT WAS FURTHER REDUCED TO NINE PROVINCES IN 1970, SEVEN PROVINCES IN 1971 AND FINALLY TO FOUR PROVINCES IN 1972, HE SAID. END INDIRECT QUOTE.

QUOTE TURKEY HAS A CLEAR AND DETERMINED STAND ON THIS SUBJECT. THE GOVERNMENT IS FULLY AWARE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. IT IS ALSO FULLY AWARE OF ITS COMMITMENTS ON THE SUBJECT OF PREVENTION OF SMUGGLING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS. WE ARE ENGAGED IN A

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CONSTRUCTIVE, METICULOUS AND UNDERSTANDING EFFORT WHICH WILL PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF TURKEY AND OF ITS FARMERS WITH DUE CONSIDERATION TO HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE POWER AND SUCCESS OF TURKEY IN PREVENTING NARCOTIC DRUGS SMUGGLING WITHIN ITS OWN FRONTIERS ARE NOT ANY LESS THAN THAT OF THE COUNTRIES WHO SHOW SENSITIVITY ON THIS SUBJECT. UNQUOTE. END TEXT.

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